

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, UR, US
SUBJ: US-SOVIET CAT: REPORTING CABLE ON SECOND MEETING OF
REGIONAL WORKING GROUP, JULY 24, 1978

BEGIN SUMMARY: SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP
WAS MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN THE FIRST, KUZNETSOV STRESSED
THE NEED TO AGREE TO CRITERIA BEFORE AGREEMENT ON INTERIM
REGIONAL RESTRAINT, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE USSR MIGHT TABLE
AREAS SOUTH OF THE CAUCASUS AND GOBI AS ITS REGIONS. HE
EXPLAINED HOW SOVIET P/L CRITERIA WOULD SPECIFICALLY APPLY
TO LATIN AMERICA. DR. MATHEWS NOTED THAT THE MEAGER RESULTS
OF HIS ANALYSIS SHOWED THE NEED FOR MIL/TECH CRITERIA.
SHE MADE CASE FOR PUBLIC INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR LATIN
AMERICAN INITIATIVES, ILLUSTRATED APPLICATION OF THREE US
MIL/TECH CRITERIA TO THE REGION, AND CONCLUDED WITH A DES-
SCRIPTION OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT
THEM. THE NEXT MEETING WILL ADDRESS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.
END SUMMARY

1. KUZNETSOV'S OPENING REMARKS REITERATED THAT THERE
MUST BE AGREEMENT ON CRITERIA BEFORE APPLICATIONS TO
REGIONS; THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION AGREED TO A REGIONAL
WORKING GROUP ONLY FOR A "PRELIMINARY" DISCUSSION OF
REGIONAL RESTRAINT; AND HINTED THAT THEY STILL QUESTIONED
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OUR MOTIVES IN PROPOSING LATIN AMERICAN AND SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT WITH EQUAL
VALIDITY TABLE THE "SUB-REGION SOUTH OF THE GOBI DESERT OR
REGION SOUTH OF THE CAUCASUS AND CASPIAN SEAS" FOR FUTURE
CONSIDERATION.

2. MATHEWS RESPONDED THAT WE DON'T SEE A PRACTICAL OR

NECESSARY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE NEED TO AGREE ON CRITERIA AND THE NEED TO TAKE LIMITED INTERIM STEPS TO PRESERVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESTRAINT, AND THAT THE "NEIGHBORS" PROPOSAL MISTAKENLY CONCERNED THE SECURITY OF THE SUPER-POWERS RATHER THAN THAT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. KUZNETSOV DID A SHORT REPRISE ON "NEIGHBORS" AND THEN EXPLAINED HOW THE USSR WOULD APPLY ITS P/L CRITERIA TO LATIN AMERICA. ARMS IN AID OF SELF-DEFENSE AND IN-JUNCTION AGAINST PROFIT MAKING WERE UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE. MOST OF OTHER SOVIET CRITERIA WOULD APPLY TO LATIN AMERICA IF CONDITIONS OBTAINED, E.G., ACT OF AGGRESSION, BUT HE ADMITTED NO APPLICABILITY FOR PRESENT. ONLY CRITERIA CONCERNING TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (HE MENTIONED CHILE, NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA, AND PARAGUAY) WERE CURRENTLY APPLICABLE. MATHEWS NOTED THAT HIS PRESENTATION DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR MIL/TECH CRITERIA, SINCE 6 OF THE 8 SOVIET P/L CRITERIA APPLIED TO ALL STATES IN THE REGION, OR TO NONE OF THEM, WHILE THE REMAINING TWO PROVIDED LITTLE GUIDANCE.

4. MATHEWS THEN MADE THE MAIN US PRESENTATION, REVIEWING THE STATUS OF LATIN AMERICAN RESTRAINT INITIATIVES, RECENT TRENDS IN ARMS TRANSFERS TO THE REGION, AND PRESSURES FOR INCREASED ARMS EXPENDITURES IN COMING YEARS. SHE GAVE ILLUSTRATIVE APPLICATIONS OF THREE MILITARY/

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TECHNICAL CRITERIA OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE REGION (NO. 3, ANTI-TERRORIST; NO. 5, NO-FIRST-INTRODUCTION; NO. 7, SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INITIATIVES), AND CONCLUDED BY OUTLINING THE PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS OF A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT THE CRITERIA. SHE STRESSED NEED TO AGREE TO MECHANISM IN CONCEPT, BUT NOT DETAIL, THIS ROUND.

5. KUZNETSOV CALLED US PRESENTATION WORTH EXAMINING CLOSELY AND ASKED IF WE COULD TELL HIM ABOUT OTHER SUPPLIERS' REACTIONS TO AYACUCHO AND MEXICAN INITIATIVES. WE SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND GET BACK TO THEM, BUT THAT ONE INDICATION OF THEIR ATTITUDE WAS ACCEPTED SSOD LANUGAGE ON AYACUCHO.

6. TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THIS HAD BEEN USEFUL MEETING AND THAT NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING ROUP WOULD FOCUS ON ANALOGOUS DISCUSSION OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. SOVIET SIDE WILL ALSO COMMENT ON US LATIN AMERICAN PRESENTATION.

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